



EPA's Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling

Turning the black box into plexiglass

You may have asked: "How healthy is our environment?"
But did you ever ask: *"How do we know?"*

The environment appears elegantly simple, but describing it to make decisions for environmental protection can be complex. That's why we build models.

The Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling (CREM), a council of senior managers from across the EPA, was established in 2000 to promote consistency and consensus among environmental model developers and users.



The CREM helps ensure that EPA:

- Documents and communicates the data, algorithms, and expert judgments used to develop models.
- Documents and implements best management practices to use models consistently and appropriately.
- Establishes and implements criteria so that model-based decisions satisfy regulatory requirements and Agency guidelines.
- Facilitates information exchange among model developers and users so that models can be iteratively and continuously improved.
- Proactively anticipates scientific and technological developments so EPA is prepared for the next generation of environmental models.

The CREM has supported the development of a Knowledge Base with information on EPA's most frequently used models as well as guidance documents on environmental models. Additionally, EPA and the National Academy of Sciences are collaborating to develop a report on integrating environmental models with regulatory decisions. For more information on the CREM and CREM products, please contact Pasky Pascual at (202) 564-2259 or at pascual.pasky@epa.gov.

www.epa.gov/crem